

CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing material comprising a complex of an anionic polysaccharide with silver, wherein the material comprises from about 0.1wt.% to
5 about 3wt.% of silver.
2. A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the complex comprises a salt formed between the anionic polysaccharide and Ag^+ .
- 10 3. A wound dressing material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the anionic polysaccharide is a polycarboxylate.
4. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the anionic polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of alginates,
15 hyaluronates, pectins, carrageenans, xanthan gums, sulfated dextrans, cellulose derivatives, oxidized celluloses and mixtures thereof.
5. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the amount of silver in the complex is from about 1 to about 50% by weight based on
20 the weight of the anionic polysaccharide.
6. A wound dressing material according to claim 6, in the form of a freeze-dried sponge sheet, or a woven or nonwoven fibrous sheet, or a gel sheet.
- 25 7. A wound dressing material according to any preceding, wherein the wound dressing material comprises from about 0.1wt% to about 10wt% of the complex.
8. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the amount of silver in the wound dressing material is from more than about 0.1wt%
30 to about 2wt.%.

9. A wound dressing material according to any preceding claim, wherein the wound dressing material comprises collagen and oxidized regenerated cellulose (ORC) complexed with silver.

5 10. A wound dressing comprising a wound dressing material according to any preceding claim.

11. A wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the wound dressing is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

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12. Use of a complex of an anionic polysaccharide with silver for the preparation of a material comprising from about 0.1wt.% to about 3wt.% of silver for use in the treatment of wounds.

15 13. Use according to claim 13, wherein said wounds are chronic wounds such as venous ulcers, decubitis ulcers or diabetic ulcers.

14. Use according to claim 12 or 13, wherein said treatment comprises applying said wound dressing material directly to the surface of the wound.

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15. Use of a complex of an anionic polysaccharide with silver for the preparation of a material comprising from about 0.1wt.% to about 3wt.% of silver for use in the treatment of inflammation

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